AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): An image transfer and output method, comprising the steps of:

i) feeding a plurality of original image signals representing radiation image information, which have been fed out from an image signal input apparatus, into an operation processing device,

ii) performing predetermined operation processing on the plurality of the received original image signals in the operation processing device to obtain an operation-processed image signal,

iii) transferring at least one original image signal, which is among the plurality of the original image signals, to an image output device, prior to the operation-processed image signal being obtained from the predetermined operation processing,

iv) performing image outputting with the image output device and in accordance with the one original image signal having been transferred,

v) after the operation-processed image signal has been obtained from the predetermined operation processing, feeding the operation-processed image signal into the image output device, and

vi) performing image outputting with the image output device and in accordance with the received operation-processed image signal.

2. (original): A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein, in cases where the operation processing device is located on the side of the image output device,

the plurality of the original image signals are transferred to the operation processing device, and

the operation processing is performed on the plurality of the transferred original image signals in the operation processing device.

3. (original): A method as defined in Claim 1 wherein, in cases where the operation processing device is located on the side of the image signal input apparatus,

the operation-processed image signal, which has been obtained from the operation processing device, is transferred to the image output device, and

the image outputting is performed with the image output device and in accordance with the operation-processed image signal having been transferred.

4. (previously presented): An image transfer and output system, comprising:

i) an image signal input apparatus for feeding a plurality of original image signals representing radiation image information,

ii) an operation processing device for performing predetermined operation processing on the plurality of the original image signals to obtain an operation-processed image signal,

iii) an image output device for performing image outputting in accordance with a received original image signal, and

iv) a transfer device for transferring an image signal,

wherein the transfer device transfers at least one original image signal, which is among the plurality of the original image signals, to the image output device, prior to the operation-processed image signal being obtained from the predetermined operation processing, and

the image output device operates such that the image output device performs image outputting in accordance with the one original image signal having been transferred and such that, when the operation-processed image signal is received from the operation processing device, the image input device performs image outputting in accordance with the received operation-processed image signal.

5. (original): A system as defined in Claim 4 wherein the operation processing device is located on the side of the image output device,

the transfer device transfers the plurality of the original image signals to the operation processing device, and

the operation processing device performs the operation processing on the plurality of the transferred original image signals.

6. (original): A system as defined in Claim 4 wherein the operation processing device is located on the side of the image signal input apparatus, and

the transfer device transfers the operation-processed image signal, which has been obtained from the operation processing device, to the image output device.

7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented): An image output terminal, comprising:

i) an operation processing device for performing predetermined operation processing on a plurality of original image signals to obtain an operation-processed image signal, and

ii) an image output device for operating such that the image output device performs image outputting in accordance with one original image signal among the plurality of the original image signals prior to the operation-processed image signal being obtained from the predetermined operation processing, and such that, when the operation-processed image signal is received from the operation processing device, the image output device performs image outputting in accordance with the received operation-processed image signal.

9. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein the transfer device comprises a network.

10. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein the image signal input apparatus comprises a CT scanner.

11. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein the image signal input apparatus comprises a CR apparatus.

12. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein the image output device comprises a liquid crystal panel display device.

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (previously presented): An image output terminal as defined in claim 8, wherein the image output device comprises a liquid crystal panel display device.

16. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 5, wherein the operation processing device is separated from the input apparatus by said transfer device, said transfer device comprising a network.

17. (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the plurality of original image signals are transferred to the operation processing device from the image signal input apparatus through a network.

18. (previously presented): The terminal of claim 8, further comprising a network interface, said network interface receiving the original image signals from a network prior to being processed by the operation processing device.

19. (previously presented): A method as defined in claim 1, wherein performing image outputting with the image output device and in accordance with the one original image signal having been transferred is performed prior to the operation-processed image signal being obtained from the predetermined operation processing.

20. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein the image output device performing image outputting in accordance with the one original image signal having been transferred is performed prior to the operation-processed image signal being obtained from the predetermined operation processing.

21. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 8, wherein the image output device performing image outputting in accordance with one original image signal among the plurality of the original image signals is performed prior to the operation-processed image signal being obtained from the predetermined operation processing.

22. (previously presented): A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step ii) comprises adding an image signal obtained from an upper surface side of a stimulable phosphor sheet to an image signal obtained from a lower surface side of the stimulable phosphor sheet.

23. (currently amended): A method as defined in claim ~~23~~22, wherein the step ii) further comprises performing a masking operation on each of the image signals obtained from the upper and lower surface sides of the stimulable phosphor sheet.

24. (previously presented): A method as defined in claim 1, wherein, in said step vi, an image represented by the received operation-processed image signal is displayed on the image output device together with an image represented by said one original image signal.

25. (previously presented): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein, when the operation-processed image signal is received from the operation processing device, an image represented by the received operation-processed image signal is displayed on the image output device together with an image represented by said received original image signal.

26. (previously presented): An image output terminal as defined in claim 8, wherein, when the operation-processed image signal is received from the operation processing device, an image represented by the received operation-processed image signal is displayed on the image output device together with an image represented by said one original image signal.

27. (new): An image transfer and output method, comprising :

i) feeding a plurality of original image signals representing radiation image information, which have been fed out from an image signal input apparatus, into an operation processing device,

ii) performing predetermined operation processing on the plurality of the received original image signals in the operation processing device to obtain an operation-processed image signal which represent the radiation image information,

iii) feeding the operation-processed image signal into an image output device,

iv) performing image outputting with the image output device and in accordance with the received operation-processed image signal,

wherein

v) at least one of said plurality of original image signals is transferred to the image output device, before the operation-processed image signals is obtained from the predetermined operation-processing, and

vi) image outputting is performed with the image output device and in accordance with said at least one original image signal having been transferred, before the operation-processed image signal has been obtained and image outputting has been capable of being performed with the image output device and in accordance with said obtained operation-processed image signal.

28. (new): A method as defined in Claim 27, wherein the plurality of the original image signals comprise a high energy image signal, which represents a high energy image having been recorded with radiation having a high energy level, and a low energy image signal, which represents a low energy image having been recorded with radiation having a low energy level, for energy subtraction processing, and the operation-processed image signal represents an energy subtraction image.

29. (new): A method as defined in claim 1, wherein first and second original image signals are output in parallel from said image signal input apparatus.

30. (new): A system as defined in claim 4, wherein first and second original image signals are output in parallel from said image signal input apparatus.

31. (new): An image output terminal as defined in claim 8, wherein first and second original image signals are input in parallel to said operation processing device.